### Genesis

## Chapter 47

1So then, JoSeph went and told PharaOh that his father and brothers had arrived from the land of CanaAn with their cattle, oxen, and all their possessions, and that they’d be staying in the land of Gesem.  
  
2He also took 5 of his brothers and brought them before PharaOh.  
  
3And when PharaOh asked them:  
  
 ‘What’s your occupation?’  
  
They replied:  
  
 ‘Your servants (we and our fathers) are shepherds.’  
  
4Then they said to PharaOh:  
  
 ‘We’ve come to stay in [your] land. And since there are no pastures for your servant’s flocks here, and because there’s a famine in the land of CanaAn, please allow us to live in the land of Gesem.’  
  
And PharaOh told JoSeph:  
  
 ‘Then, may they live in the land of Gesem. And if you know any among them who are more capable, put them in charge of my cattle also.’  
  
So that’s how Jacob and his sons came to JoSeph in Egypt. And after PharaOh (the king of Egypt) learned about this, 5he told JoSeph:  
  
 ‘[Now that] your father and brothers have come to you, 6{Look!} the whole land of Egypt is before you... So, choose the very best land as a place for your father and brothers to settle!’  
  
  
7Then later, JoSeph brought his father Jacob in and stood him before PharaOh, and Jacob blest PharaOh.  
  
8Then PharaOh asked Jacob:  
  
 ‘How old are you?’  
  
9And Jacob replied to PharaOh:  
  
 ‘I’ve lived 130 years of my life.  
  
 ‘These years have been too few and too troubled, for I haven’t reached the age that my ancestors [achieved], back in the days when they lived.’  
  
10And after that, Jacob [again] blest PharaOh, and left.  
  
  
11So, just as PharaOh commanded, JoSeph gave his father and brothers a tract of land as their possession and settled them in the land of Egypt, on the best ground in the land of RaMesse.  
  
12And thereafter, JoSeph provided grain for his father, brothers, and his father’s entire household.  
  
13However, there was no grain [growing on] the land at the time, so the famine was terrible. For both in the land of Egypt and in the land of CanaAn, people were weak from the famine. 14As a result, JoSeph collected all the money that there was in the land of Egypt and in the land of CanaAn, because the people had spent all that they had for the grain that they were buying… And he took it all to the house of PharaOh.  
  
15So before long, there was no more money left in the land of Egypt or in the land of CanaAn. And because of this, all the Egyptians came to JoSeph and said:  
  
 ‘Give us bread! Do you want us to die here before you? All our money is gone!’  
  
16And JoSeph replied to them:  
  
 ‘If all your money is gone, then bring me your cattle, and I’ll give you bread in exchange for them.’  
  
17So they brought their cattle to JoSeph, and he gave them bread in exchange for their horses, sheep, oxen, and burros.  
  
And JoSeph kept the people alive with bread that year in exchange for their cattle.  
  
18But after that year had passed, they came to him the 2nd year and said:  
  
 ‘Must we be consumed before you, our lord?  
  
 ‘For all our money is gone, and since we’ve brought all our possessions and our cattle to you, our lord, we don’t have anything left other than our bodies and our land!  
  
 19‘Therefore, so that we won’t die before you, and so that our land isn’t devastated, please buy us and our land for bread, so that we and our land will become PharaOh’s servants... Give us seeds to grow so we can live and not die, and so that our land won’t be devastated!’  
  
20As a result, JoSeph bought all the land of the Egyptians for PharaOh… They sold it all to PharaOh, because the famine was so bad. And therefore, the entire land became PharaOh’s, 21and the people became his servants from one end of Egypt to the other… 22That is, except for the land of the priests – JoSeph didn’t buy [their land], because PharaOh gave [grain] as gifts to the priests. So they ate what PharaOh gave them, and they didn’t have to sell their land.  
  
23Then JoSeph told all the Egyptians:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Today I’ve purchased both you and your land for PharaOh. So now, take the seeds and plant the land. 24Then, when it produces, you must give 1/5 of its produce to PharaOh!  
  
 ‘You may keep the rest for yourselves as seeds for planting and as food for you and for all that are in your homes.’  
  
25And they said:  
  
 ‘You have saved us! We’ve found favor before you, our lord, and we’ll be PharaOh’s servants!’  
  
26As a result, JoSeph passed a law that we still have today:  
  
A fifth part [of the produce of the land of Egypt] is to be [given to] PharaOh. The only exception is the land of the priests (that doesn’t belong to PharaOh).  
  
  
27Well thereafter, the IsraElites lived in the land of Gesem in Egypt and they owned an allotment [of land] there… So the [family] grew rapidly and profusely.  
  
28Jacob also lived for 17 more years there in the land of Egypt, until he was 147 years old.  
  
29Then, as the time for IsraEl to die drew near, he called his son JoSeph and said this to him:  
  
 ‘If I’ve found favor before you, put your hand under my thigh and [swear] to me mercifully and truthfully that you won’t bury me in Egypt, 30but that I’ll sleep with my ancestors!  
  
 ‘[Swear that] you’ll carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their tomb.’  
  
And JoSeph said:  
  
 ‘I will do as you’ve asked.’  
  
31But [Jacob] said:  
  
 ‘Swear to me!’  
  
And he swore to him.  
  
Then IsraEl bowed low, as he leaned on his cane.